



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
May 5, 2021

### **IMPERIAL DAM MAINTENANCE AND YUMA AREA SALINITY MANAGEMENT ON AGENDA FOR MAY 19 WEBINAR**

The Imperial Dam 10-Year Capital Maintenance Plan and Colorado River salinity management in the area of Yuma, Arizona will be the focus of an upcoming public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place on **Wednesday, May 19, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. MST/PDT via webinar**. The Colorado River Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California.

David Escobar with the Imperial Irrigation District will speak on the Imperial Dam 10-Year Capital Maintenance Plan. Located about 20 miles north of Yuma, the Imperial Dam serves as a diversion structure for water deliveries throughout southeastern California, Arizona, and Mexico. The 10-Year Capital Maintenance Plan was prepared at the direction of Imperial Irrigation District management and the Imperial Dam Advisory Board to assist with the budgeting and planning of all major capital works needed at the Imperial Dam. Over the past seven years, several large capital projects have been completed using the 10-year plan. More large projects are planned for the next few years on both the California and Arizona sides of the Imperial Dam, including projects currently moving into the construction stage or that are in the design phase.

In other business, Daniel Bunk of the Bureau of Reclamation will discuss Yuma area salinity management. The salinity of Colorado River water delivered to Mexico under the 1944 Water Treaty became a matter of discussion between the United States and Mexico in the 1960s, culminating in 1973 with a Commission agreement known as Minute No. 242, “Permanent and Definitive Solution to the International Problem of the Salinity of the Colorado River.” The Minute limits the salinity in Colorado River waters delivered to Mexico at the Northernly International Boundary based on a comparison with the annual average salinity of Colorado River waters which arrive at Imperial Dam. The U.S. Congress enacted the Salinity Control Act in 1974 as a means to approve, implement, and undertake salinity control measures consistent with Minute 242. The Bureau of Reclamation coordinates with the Commission on water deliveries to Mexico and operates four well fields to help manage drainage and groundwater flows in the Yuma area. As the drainage and groundwater flows are typically higher in salinity than the Colorado River mainstream, these flows are closely monitored to ensure water deliveries to Mexico are made consistent with Minute 242 and other international agreements.

To join our Teams Meeting, go to the Colorado River Citizens Forum web page at <https://go.usa.gov/xHQkt> and then click on the “Join” button. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. Participants should consider testing connectivity prior to the meeting by clicking on the “Join” button and ensuring their camera and microphone are functioning. Members of the public can also join by phone: **(915) 320-4718 | Conference ID: 746 177 64#**

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact 915-832-4175 or [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov).

Media contact:  
Sally Spener  
(915) 832-4175  
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**COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Wednesday, May 19, 2021**  
**4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST/PDT**

**Agenda**

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Meghan Scott, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Imperial Dam 10-Year Capital Maintenance Plan** – David Escobar, General Superintendent, Operations & Maintenance All American Canal-River Division, Imperial Irrigation District
- **Yuma Area Salinity Management** – Daniel Bunk, Chief, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Basin Region
- **Public Comment** (To make public comment, RSVP by noon on May 19 to [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov) or (915) 832-4175)
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

*If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.*

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Or join by phone. Call-in number: **(915) 320-4718 | Conference ID: 746 177 64#**

To enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness, we are pleased to announce that Citizens Forum stakeholders may now choose to receive their meeting notifications via email. Simply send an email to [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov) with the subject line of "CRCF Opt-in" and your name.

For information, call (915) 832-4175 or email [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov)